

In biology, we watched a video that illustrates some of the topics we have gone over in class. These topics include the goal that unites all living organisms, that water is essential for life, and that the sun is the ultimate source of energy.

The goal of all living organisms is to survive and reproduce, as we have discussed in class. In the video, survival was demonstrated whenever there was a predator chasing the prey. The predator needs to eat in order to survive, and in order to do that they chased the prey for the same reason that motivates the prey to quite literally run for its life. There were several of these situations addressed in the video. There was the instance of the wolf chasing the caribou calf, and the hunting dog chasing the impala. The impala leaps into a river during the chase, striving to hold on to its life, although it knows that swimming is not one of its strengths. This desperate act within a situation of a chase also demonstrated the goal of survival. The other part of the goal, reproduction, was addressed when the penguins were bearing the harsh winter so their offspring would have a better chance of survival by hatching in summer. By having successful offspring, the species will continue to survive.

Another topic we addressed in class is that water is essential for life. This is shown in the video when Africa's Kalahari Desert is turned into a paradise seasonally. The water from heavy rain turns the desert terrain into a lush area that can temporarily support an abundance of life. As a dry desert, there is not very much life. But as soon as there is water, life becomes much more abundant. The video further illustrates this when the elephants make the long trek to the Okavango Delta. They are drawn there by their need for water, because without it they would not survive. In order for there to be life, there needs to be water.

A third topic that we addressed in class is that the sun is the ultimate source of energy. The video demonstrated this concept by showing how the sun creates the seasonal cycle, and that in Japan the plants shed their leaves as the sun diminishes. It is also illustrated when the animals are able to eat broad leaf tree leaves during the summer season; the sun gives the plants the energy they need to produce broad leaves, and the animals are able to gain energy by eating the leaves.